

**APPROVED AS AMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**TOWN OF DARIEN  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SPECIAL MEETING  
JANUARY 30, 2006**

**ATTENDANCE:** First Selectwoman Evonne Klein; Kevin Newman;  
Linda Santarella; Barbara Thorne; Susan Young

**STAFF:** John Crary, Administrative Officer

**OTHERS:** Bob Steeger, Director of Public Works

**CALL TO ORDER**

First Selectwoman Klein called the Special Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no comments from the public.

**FIRST SELECTWOMAN'S REPORT**

**CL&P STORM RESPONSE**

The First Selectwoman reported that she met with Chris Swan, Michael Ahern and Barbara Martins from CL&P to discuss their response to the storm two weeks ago. They understand the concerns regarding their lack of response to Darien and their lack of available crews to service the area. She stated that the Town has put forward an agreed upon plan to improve communications between CL&P and the Town.

**CL&P GLENBROOK CABLES PROJECT**

The First Selectwoman reported that she, John Crary, Capt. Pavia, Chief Lovello, Bob Steeger, and Jeremy Ginsberg met with the CL&P engineering team to review the splice vault locations for the project. They are in the beginning stages of their D&M plan. She stated that they will continue to meet with CL&P as they put the finishing touches on the D&M plan, which will be submitted to the CT Siting Council for their approval in late spring. She reported that they will continue to work with the neighbors on Brookside Drive regarding the mitigation of the project effects on their neighborhood.

**HEALTH DISTRICT PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The First Selectwoman reported that the members of the Health District Planning Committee are:

John Crary	Administrative Officer
Alison Graham	Human Resources Director
Judy Morrison	Social Services Director
Dr. Peggy McLaughlin	Director of Health
Susan Young	Board of Selectmen
Barbara Cook	Board of Finance
Philip Weyhe	RTM
Nancy Herling	Social Services Commission

She thanked all of the members for volunteering.

### **HOMELAND SECURITY**

The First Selectwoman reported that she, along with Mayors Malloy, Joseloff, and Fabrizi will be sending a letter to Congressman Shays, and Senators Dodd and Lieberman expressing their concern and dismay that the State of Connecticut did not receive federal homeland security funds. Ms. Santarella asked why the Town did not receive homeland security funds and Ms. Klein replied that they were not deemed a high risk area by the State.

### **ROUTE 7**

The First Selectwoman reported that she was disappointed to read the SWRPA Legislative Board's position on the Route 7 project. The transportation issues policies and programs are under the purview of the Chief Elected Officials.

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Tues., Jan 31<sup>st</sup> Budget meeting 7:00

Wed., Feb., 1<sup>st</sup> 7:30 Affordable Housing Panel - 2<sup>nd</sup> panel in the series

### **ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

Mr. Crary reported that last Thursday he attended a meeting with CIRMA, the Town's insurance broker, and they proposed a three year extension on the Town's liability, property and automobile insurance with an increase of 3% this year and then no increase for the next two years. He stated that this also covered the schools. He expressed that it would be in the best interest of the Town to lock this in because it was within budget for the Town's insurance costs.

### **REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE HEALTH DISTRICT PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Susan Young reported that on January 20<sup>th</sup> she attended a meeting for the purpose of bringing her up to date on the Health District and to create a plan in which the Town

would partner with New Canaan to have one centralized Health District. Ms. Young reported that Health Districts have been in existence for 35 years and their primary task used to be to examine septic system water and food services in restaurants. She stated that their first step was to study the feasibility and cost issues. Mr. Crary reported that they received a grant for \$29,921 and that \$10,000 of that would be used to hire a consultant, Tom Bernstein, who put together New Canaan's feasibility study. If the Health District was formed, the remaining money would be given to the Health District to be used for its formation and then it becomes independent.

Ms. Young reported that the Committee would be setting up three meetings for the purpose of reviewing the legislation and business plan and then a fourth meeting for the resolution. She reported that she would like to have the documentation together by June because there was an incentive to receive two fiscal years payback. Mr. Crary stated that by joining the Health District there would be more services for the betterment of the community. He said he spoke with Dr. Reed and Tom Bernstein and it appeared that Mr. Bernstein would accept \$5,000 for his fee and then the Health District would pay the remaining \$5,000. Ms. Klein stated that they should pay attention to State legislature because the trend going forward was to form Health Districts. Mr. Crary added that the State is talking about requiring municipalities to join together to form Health Districts. Ms. Klein added that Health Districts are eligible for State grants.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **a) Discuss and Take Action on Request for Funding for Engineering at Gorham's Pond Dam**

Mr. Newman asked why if repairs were made to the bridge in 1998 was it not working now? Bob Steeger explained that they were trying to analyze that. Mr. Newman asked if they had a warranty on the work done and Mr. Steeger replied that the scour protection was done by a sub-contractor with no warranty. Mr. Steeger stated that this request was for maintenance work and that the bridge was not falling down. He continued that since the proposed tide gate replacement will require the installation of a cofferdam around pier no. 2 and the east abutment, the Town could save money by expanding the scope of the tide gate project to include the scour protection and footing work. He stated that this request was for engineering work and the construction costs to follow would not be that significant.

**\*\* MR. NEWMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR ENGINEERING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,900 AT GORHAM'S POND DAM.**

**\*\* MS. THORNE SECONDED.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**b) Discuss and Take Action on Residential Refuse Disposal Options**

The Board reviewed Bob Steeger's memo with suggested solutions to create a new category for Residential Permits based upon the individual needs of the resident. Mr. Steeger noted that the problem with the current situation was that people with pickup trucks and trailers are the most prone to abuse the dump regulations.

Ms. Thorne stated that there was no doubt there were inequities in the current situation and they could try these changes for a year and if they do not work, they can look at other options again next year. Ms. Santarella asked if the scalehouse could be moved to the middle because it was difficult to see cars going in and out where it was currently located.

Mr. Crary reported that this was an interim step for the operation of the dump and that it would solve some things. He continued that it was designed for people taking in small, bulky waste. Ms. Klein stated that the goal was to recover the cost of operating the dump.

**\*\* MS SANTARELLA MOVED TO APPROVE THE  
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR TO  
EXPAND THE RANGE OF SERVICES FOR RESIDENTIAL PERMITS.  
\*\* MS. THORNE SECONDED.  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**c) Letter from Craig Danna, 22 Heights Road re: Policy on New Sidewalks**

The Board discussed the request from Craig Danna to consider allocating Town funds to create a sidewalk extension on his property at Heights Road. Mr. Newman questioned if Heights Road could be part of the Downtown Revitalization project because it was too far away. Ms. Klein replied that Mr. Danna was asking that the project be extended to Heights Road. She stated that he was asking the Town to fund 2/3 of the sidewalk cost. Ms. Klein also stated that the Board makes the decision to build sidewalks where none have been before, but this was a different animal. Also the Town's participation has been to replace existing sidewalks to higher standards. Ms. Santarella asked if this was part of the DRI proposal and Ms. Klein replied it was not. Ms. Santarella stated that she was not clear on this request and she needed an example of someone requesting retail space. She also wanted to be sure they were not setting a precedent.

Ms. Klein stated that a decision did not have to be made this evening and it will be placed on the Board's agenda for a vote in February.

**d) Discuss and Take Action on a resolution authorizing the First Selectwoman to sign a grant with the State of Connecticut Department of Health**

Mr. Crary stated that he received the resolution form from the State last week. Mr. Newman said he was concerned that it was like signing a blank check because the resolution language states that the First Selectwoman could sign everything that had to do

with the Health District. Mr. Crary stated that the resolution was exactly the language that was generated by the State.

The Board concurred to table the action on the resolution until advice on the language is obtained from Town Counsel.

#### **e) Discuss Draft Statement on Affordable Housing**

Mr. Newman stated that he was excited about this, however he had two areas he disagreed with in the draft statement on affordable housing. First, he stated that the Committee should not be called an Advisory Committee. He also was concerned that the Committee should not include members of other Boards or other Commissions, but should have independent members serving on it. Ms. Young asked why there would be no more than 7 members serving on the Committee. Ms. Klein replied that seven was a manageable group. Ms. Young stated that she was glad they were doing this as well as looking at alternative housing. Ms. Klein stated that the intent was strictly affordable housing and affordable was the key. Ms. Santarella stated that she would like a larger number of members on the Committee, such as 9 members. Ms. Klein stated that the key things the Committee would do would be to identify opportunities to meet the needs of working families and senior citizens. Ms. Klein asked that Mr. Newman email his comments to her and she will merge them and this will then be discussed again at the next meeting. She commented that this was a great step.

#### **AGENDA REVIEW**

Ms. Young asked if the Senior Center Task Force will be on future Board agendas. Ms. Klein replied that they would be on the February 6<sup>th</sup> agenda.

#### **FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

January 31, 2006	Board of Selectmen Budget Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
February 2, 2006	Board of Selectmen Budget Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
February 4, 2006	Board of Selectmen Budget Meeting at 10:00 a.m.
February 6, 2006	Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
February 7, 2006	Board of Selectmen Budget Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
February 7, 2006	Planning and Zoning Planning Meeting at 8:00 p.m.
February 10, 2006	Board of Education Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS REAL ESTATE MATTERS AND CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS**

**\*\* MS. SANTARELLA MOVED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT  
6:50 PM TO DISCUSS REAL ESTATE MATTERS AND CONTRACT  
NEGOTIATIONS.**

**\*\* MS. YOUNG SECONDED.**  
**\*\* MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

(Because this is a Special Meeting no items may be added to the agenda)

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna DeVito  
Telesco Secretarial Services